

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)Date of mailing (day/month/year)
28 March 2001 (28.03.01)To:
Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
In its capacity as elected OfficeInternational application No.
PCT/GB00/02844Applicant's or agent's file reference
57.0349WOPCTInternational filing date (day/month/year)
27 July 2000 (27.07.00)Priority date (day/month/year)
27 July 1999 (27.07.99)

Applicant

HEANEY, Steven et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

26 January 2001 (26.01.01)

 in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election was was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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REC'D 12 JUN 2002

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

8

Applicant's or agent's file reference 57.0349WOPCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 02844	International filing date (day/month/year) 27/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 27/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F17/30		
Applicant SCHLUMBERGER HOLDINGS LIMITED et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 2 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consists of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I Basis of the report

II Priority

III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

IV Lack of unity of invention

V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

VI Certain documents cited

VII Certain defects in the international application

VIII Certain observations on the international application

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Date of submission of the demand 26/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 06/06/2002
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Netherlands Tel.: (+ 31-70) 340-2040 Fax: (+ 31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer CARTRYSSE A A H  Tel. (+49-89) 2399 2828

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in at least some of the claims does not appear to meet the criteria mentioned in Article 33(1) PCT, i.e. does not appear to be novel and/or to involve an inventive step (see international search report, in particular the documents cited X and/or Y and corresponding claim references).

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

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PATENTS

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12 FEB 2001

401
WLU (AKM)Date of mailing (day/month/year)
01 February 2001 (01.02.01)Applicant's or agent's file reference
57.0349WOPCT

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.
PCT/GB00/02844International filing date (day/month/year)
27 July 2000 (27.07.00)Priority date (day/month/year)
27 July 1999 (27.07.99)Applicant
SCHLUMBERGER HOLDINGS LIMITED et al

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
AU,KP,KR,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:
AE,AG,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,BZ,CA,CH,CN,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,DZ,EA,EE,EP,ES,
FI,GB,GD,GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,JP,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MA,MD,MG,MK,
MN,MW,MX,MZ,NO,NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,
The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the
applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on
01 February 2001 (01.02.01) under No. WO 01/08044

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

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Publishing System for Intranet

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention is related to the field of electronic publishing systems. In particular the present invention relates to the field of electronic publishing systems operating in an intranet environment.

10

Background of the Invention

In the course of collaborative research and development taking place in a large organization, there is a need for an internal publication system that is easy to use and would allow the sharing of information related to the research and development activities. This need may be even greater when the relevant people involved are located in different locations and across various time-zones. The information that needs to be shared can take the form of plans, discussions, specifications, technical reports, presentations, timetables, events, meetings, decisions, changes, status reports, and pointers to partner or competitor information. Such a publication system could enable project-team members to work together and share all project-related information. The system could also allow other (manager, sponsors, and people on other projects) to keep in touch with the status, progress and developments.

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Several commercially available systems can provide some useful functionality for an internal publishing system. For example, Netscape Publisher and Netscape Composer 5 can be used to allow a client to edit HTML pages and then save them back on the server using the URL address of the source page. However, such systems lack additional features that make a publishing system most effective for the above-described type of application.

10

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a publishing system that would facilitate the sharing of 15 project-related information in an efficient and easy-to-use manner.

In accordance with the invention, a method of publishing information on a network-based computer 20 system is provided. The preferred method comprises the steps of: displaying a web page on a client computer, the web page including a plurality of sections with each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML file (or other source, e.g. LDAP or XML file) 25 stored on a network server under a file address; editing the content of one of the sections of the web page under direction of a user on the client computer; and transmitting the edited section of the web page to the network server along with the file address 30 corresponding to the HTML file from which said one of

the sections derived its content, such that the edited section will be saved on the network server.

5 The method preferably comprises the step of displaying a web page containing the edited section on a second client computer to a second user, and the file address under which the HTML files are preferably stored is a URL address.

10 The editing step preferably comprises the steps of: identifying the section of the web page to be edited under direction of the user; retrieving a copy of the HTML file from which the section to be edited derived its content; and altering the content of the HTML file 15 under direction of the user thereby generating an edited HTML file, wherein the edited HTML file is saved using the file address corresponding to the HTML file from which the section to be edited derived its content.

20

The displaying step preferably comprises: receiving from a client computer an address for an XML template corresponding to the web page to be displayed; resolving from the XML template address for each of the 25 plurality of HTML files that contain content for the sections of the web page; converting each of the plurality HTML files into an XML file, thereby generating a plurality of XML files; combining the plurality of XML files and generating therefrom an HTML 30 output file representing the web page; and transmitting

the HTML output file to a browser a application on the client computer.

5 The combining step preferably comprises: placing each of the plurality of XML files in an appropriate location on the XML template thereby generating an XML output file; and applying an XSL transform file to the XML output file to generate the HTML output file.

10 Preferably, the XSL transform file is an XSL style sheet and together with the XML template are used to define the format, look & feel, and structuring of the web page.

15 Additionally, the web page preferably comprises a section containing content derived from an LDAP file. The method also preferably includes controlling the access to the network-based computer system using an LDAP directory server to define and limit the rights of 20 authors and readers within the network. The content of the sections of the web page includes the following possible data types: text, tables, video, graphics, and sound.

25 In accordance with another aspect of the invention a method of publishing information on a network-based computer system is provided. The method comprising the steps of: transmitting an HTML output file to a browser

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on a client computer, the HTML output file defining a web page comprising a plurality of sections each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML source file stored on a network server under a file address;

5 receiving an edited HTML file and an address from the client computer, the address corresponding to one of the HTML source files; and saving the edited HTML file on the file system using said corresponding address

10 The invention is also embodied in a system for publishing information on a network-based computer system comprising: a web server configured to transmit an HTML output file to a browser on a client computer, the HTML output file defining a web page comprising a plurality of sections each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML source file stored on the web server under a file address, the web server also configured to receive an edited HTML file and an address from the client computer, the address

15 corresponding to one of the HTML source files; and to save the edited HTML file on the file system using said corresponding address.

20

According to another aspect of the invention a system

25 for publishing information on a network-based computer system is provided comprising a client computer configured to display to a user a web page, the web page comprising a plurality of sections each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML file

30 stored on a network server under a file address, to

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editing the content of one of the sections of the web page under direction of the user on the client computer, and to transmit the edited section of the web page to the network server so as to be saved on the 5 server using the file address corresponding to the HTML file from which said one of the sections derived its content.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 Figure 1 shows the structure of a project workspace web site, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

15 Figure 2 shows structure for publishing from different interfaces to the web server, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

20 Figure 3 shows the structure for interfacing with a central corporate LDAP directory server, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Figure 4 is a flow chart showing steps involved in providing web page information to a browser, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

25

Figure 5 is a flow chart showing steps involved in editing and publishing content on a project workspace, according to a preferred embodiment;

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Figure 6 is a flow chart showing how a portion of a web page is retrieved for editing in step 254 of Figure 5, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

5

Figure 7 is a flow chart showing how a portion of a web page is saved, or published, in step 258 of Figure 5, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention; and

10

Figure 8 is an example of a web page from the project workspace, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention

15 Detailed Description of the Drawings

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention a project workspace is provided that scientists can use as a 'working' tool for project groups to communicate and share information (results, data, email, meeting-
20 notes, reports, findings, conclusions, discussion summaries). Preferably, the focus is on communicating and sharing 'work-in-progress' i.e. a live, working tool that helps scientists and other participants to interact. Additionally, the project workspace can also
25 be used for recording and archiving of project information. The project workspace is preferably a central store where people can obtain essential information such as: the project summary, the people involved, and report.

The project workspace is preferably embodied in multiple web pages stored on a web server and viewable using a standard browser. Figure 8 is an example of a 5 web page from the project workspace, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The example shown in Figure 8 is a home page for a sample research project. The web page 300 is shown displayed on a browser 110.

10

Preferably, web page 300 comprises a number of separate sections 304, 306 and 308 (shown with dotted line boxes). Each of the sections 306 and 308 contains a header, an edit button, and content. For example, 15 section 306 is a section entitled "news". The header 310 identifies the section. Advantageously, an edit button 312 is provided that allows certain users to easily edit and then re-publish content. If the user clicks button 312, the browser will retrieve the 20 content of the section, in this case the text of the news section 306. The user can then edit the text and then save, or publish, the edited text using a simple facility.

25 According to a preferred embodiment there are two primary types of users for the project workspace. Scientists, who internally within each project, use the project workspace as a working tool, at multiple locations. Managers and correspondents are also 30 included in this category. The scientists would

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ordinarily be the ones entering, updating, organizing and viewing information. Thus the scientists would normally have authority to edit and publish new content on the projects web pages. The second category of 5 users for the project workspace is anyone outside the project who wants to access the information, provided they're authorized to do so. This aspect of the project workspace is primarily for publicizing and information dissemination.

10

Preferably, the users outside the project also primarily access the system through a web browser. The project workspace supports popular browsers such as Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

15

Preferred features of the project workspace include: a security system that works on a basis of pre-authorized access; a file system used to hold the Project Workspace data is a UNIX server such as a Solaris 20 Server; security and access control based on Lightweight Directory Access Protocol ("LDAP"). As will be discussed in further detail below, Netscape Suitespot server is preferably used as the Web Server, and the primary HTML publishing tool is preferably 25 Netscape Web Publisher.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention the project workspace interacts with a number of other systems and products that are already used by the users 30 in the course of their jobs. Examples of these

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products include: Microsoft Office 95, MatLab, E-mail, Eudora 4, and Microsoft Outlook 98. Examples of the systems include: various back up systems, an LDAP personnel directory, and a company web site.

5

Content in many formats can be used in the web pages within the project workspace. For example, the following picture files can be handled: JPEG, GIF, and TIFF. The following Microsoft Office file can be

10 handled: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. HTML files can be used for Web pages, and the project workspace can also preferably use MatLab and Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) files.

15 If there is already a project archive facility in operation in the particular corporate organization, it is preferably used for archiving the project workspace.

A standardized structure is provided that helps
20 visitors to a project find their way around the site. A visitor preferably is able to reach all the important content with just two mouse-clicks. Referring to Figure 8, according to a preferred embodiment, a standard left hand menu 304 is includes for following
25 items: home, plan, slides, documents, people, previous news, discussion / email lists, and one or more optional user defined items.

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The project team is given authority to remove any unwanted items from left-hand menu. An activities web page has menu items that are added by the project group.

5

Archive structure and page layout should be kept simple, in order to make it as easy as possible to enter and maintain information. The structure should preferably be as flat as possible and the titles of the 10 standard sections should make sense to majority of users. The home page should be designed so as to be appealing to the users. Additionally, templates in HTML are provided for the standard sections.

15 According to a preferred embodiment, the home page 300 contains the following sections: news section 306, highlights section 308, a milestone section, and sections for risk analysis, project description, and the project objectives (not shown).

20

In general, the Home page should contain information targeted at the general user. The links from the Home page should access the sections that the user finds most useful.

25

Another feature of the invention is that access to the home page for editing is controlled by the project team's own members.

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A people web page is provided that references information about individuals associated with the project. Typically, this shall include the individual's own professional home page when available, or

5 alternatively, a corporate directory entry. A link to the people page is shown in the left-hand menu 304 of home page 300.

10 The people web page also preferably includes a section for team members and correspondents. Where the correspondent is an external company or person the People Section should point to the contact details of the correspondent.

15 A news archive web page provides previous monthly reports that are archived for easy reference.

20 The documents web page includes written information that is produced by the project. The documents and news archive web pages are easily accessible from the home page using the links in menu 304.

25 The discussion / email lists page provides access to an archive of email and/or discussion lists for the project. The email archive supports formatted messages (styled text) and MIME attachments. The users are able to create and delete email / discussion lists as required. The email lists may have a distribution list

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associated with them or may solely be provided for the purpose of archiving email.

Additionally, the users shall be able to define
5 additional web pages as they are needed by the particular project.

The publications web page preferably includes a facility that automatically generates the current
10 publications from submissions to the corporate or site library. This feature automatically produces the content for a web page that can be included in the project workspace.

15 A facility is also preferably provided that submits documents to project workspace via e-mail. For example, attachments to an email can be filed in the correct location of the archive.

20 Advantageously, the project workspace web pages are quick and easy to edit and update. The user does not need to understand HTML, rather the editing of the Web site pages is preferably done via a WYSIWYG editor, such as Netscape Composer.

25

According to a preferred embodiment, more than one means is provided for publishing to the project workspace. For example, the users can use drag and drop, Microsoft office documents, publishing via email

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can all be used to publish information on the project workspace. A forms-interface is provided for entering and editing a limited set items (i.e. the standard items for all projects) on the web site. When 5 documents are being added to the project workspace the users are prompted for additional meta data. The user does not need to take any further action after publishing to the project workspace for the web site to be updated.

10

Desktop platforms support the moving and copying of files via a simple "Drag and Drop" procedure. Users on such desktops are able to use this facility to publish to the project workspace.

15

If a significant number of users in the organization use Microsoft Office products as their main creation and editing tool, then easy publishing to the Project Workspace from these products should be provided. For 20 example, presentations published to the project workspace created using Microsoft Powerpoint should be converted to HTML using an available utility.

A search facility is provided on the web pages of the 25 project workspace. Users are able to easily search the project workspace for the particular project that they are currently browsing. A search engine is provided that indexes all files having textual content, e.g. PDF, text, HTML, MS Microsoft Office. Preferably, an

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advanced search facility is provided searches against other meta data.

5 Usage Indicators are also preferably provided. An automatically generated "what's new" function lists what has been added to the archive in a given timeframe. Access log analysis tools allow users to report on the usage of the Project Workspace down to the level of individual pages.

10

Preferably, a lab notebook style record keeping facility is provided. The project workspace thus advantageously provides an easy way of capturing laboratory notes and data.

15

The project workspace also provides a facility for publishing mathematical equations in a convenient and readily used format.

20 The project workspace is designed to work well with at least one widely available WYSIWYG HTML editor. Examples of popular HTML editors are: Microsoft FrontPage, Netscape Composer, SoftQuad HoTMetaL. As will be discussed below, the currently preferred HTML 25 editor is Netscape Composer.

According to one embodiment the project workspace allows for the easy classification of work-in-progress material, so that such work can be either hidden or

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annotated appropriately. Ideally, material that is classified as 'work in progress' is available only to a group that is defined by the material provider.

5 In cases where the project workspace is used as the main store for the project's documentation, a solution should be provided for people while they are off site.

Any routine administration is preferably performed
10 automatically. The project workspace is preferably sited on the company's Intranet. This ordinarily provides the bandwidth needed for the facility. If desktops computers are already deployed, as is typically the case, those computers should be used as
15 the platform for the web browsers.

According to a preferred embodiment, a feature is provided that makes it possible to view in the form of a list which people have been granted the right to
20 access an individual project's workspace. In the example of page 300, the link to a people page is provided in menu 304. The leader of each project is ordinarily given authority to add and delete users and groups from the project access list.

25

Certain areas of the project workspace, and certain projects can be designated "Company Only", so that access by those outside the company is forbidden. A pointer to protected documents can be displayed to non-

authorized people doing searches, even though access to the protected document is denied.

5 Help pages for each function and standard page in the project workspace are provided. These help pages are designed to be user friendly. Also, a user question and feedback facility is preferably provided within the web.

10 Further detail of the technology used in the construction of the project workspace will now be provided. There are a number of components that combine to provide the preferred embodiment of the project workspace: site structure constructed using
15 XML; publishing via Netscape Publisher; and authentication using a corporate LDAP database.

20 XML is the 'Extensible Mark-up Language' (extensible because it is not a fixed format like HTML) and is a data format for structured document interchange on the Web. It is designed to enable the use of SGML on the World Wide Web. XML allows the designer to build sites that bring information together from several sources.

25 XML has many features that allow tasks involved with the project workspace to be automated. One example will be the display of the highlights section 308. These highlights are used in a few places but different views of them are needed. On the front page 300, for example, 30 only the last months highlights may need to be

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displayed. All the monthly highlights for the project can be combined in another page, giving a combined highlights page.

- 5 Each web page has an associated XML template. This template defines the content that builds the page. This template contains links to the other documents, page titles and other information that is needed to build the page. The content in the template is
- 10 'wrapped' in XML tags and these are then matched with an XSL style sheet. The XML files do not contain any HTML, all the HTML is in the XSL template file.

Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) is a language for
15 expressing stylesheets. It consists of two parts:

1. a language for transforming XML documents, and
2. an XML vocabulary for specifying formatting semantics.

20

An XSL stylesheet specifies the presentation of a class of XML documents by describing how an instance of the class is transformed into an XML document that uses the formatting vocabulary.

25

HTTP is preferred over FTP for use in the project workspace. Using the 'put' command in the HTTP protocol has a number of advantages over FTP.

- 30 1. The 'address' of the file is as shown in the URL, this is not the same as the host machines directory

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structure which is what needs to be known when using
FTP.

2. It allows applications to integrate more closely
5 into a recognized work flow.

3. It is handled by the Netscape Publisher Plug-In
that also has document management facilities.

10 The servlet API is a generic extension mechanism for
Web servers in the same way that the CGI interface was
intended to be. It only supports Java however, which
marks it out in this sense from CGI.

15 Servlet technology is preferably used for the project
workspace. This includes integration with LDAP for
group and mailing list management (using Sun's JNDI),
dynamic generation of HTML using XML and XSL, and
content management (using the Netscape Web Publisher
20 Java
client library). Further detail on designing such
servlets is provided below.

Figure 1 shows the structure of a project workspace web
25 site, according to a preferred embodiment of the
invention. The site is constructed using a number of
products to deliver specific functionality via selected
technologies. The project workspace web site has a
structure that is constructed out of XML templates
30 using XSL style sheets. Figure 1 shows how the
different servers and servlets are configured to build

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the web pages. Web browser 110 is shown displaying a web page to a user.

Server 128, shown by the dotted line, includes standard 5 web server application software 112. The server software is preferably Netscape Enterprise since the Publisher plug-in and the Composer functionality are readily available. However, other type of server application software could be used if similar 10 functionality is provided. For example, Microsoft IIS, or Apache software available from Apache.org could be used for server software 112. Server application software 112 provides access to HTML style sheets in Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) format which can be 15 referenced by browser 110. Web server 128 also includes three servlets for parsing, and converting HTML to XML, and LDAP to XML files.

HTML to XML servlet 122 provides a means of 20 transforming HTML content files 124 stored on server 128 into a valid XML document conforming to the XHTML specification. The servlet takes as input a reference to an HTML document available on the local file system. This document is read and, using a freely available 25 HTML parser, converted into a Document Object Model ("DOM") representation. This DOM document is then output again as an XML document conforming to the XHTML specification.

30 LDAP to XML servlet 130 retrieves LDAP content from an external LDAP server 140, and converts the LDAP content into XML format. Servlet 130 provides a query

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interface to an LDAP directory returning an XML document as the response. The servlet takes as input a query in the standard LDAP query format. Using the standard J2EE JNDI API, it sends the query to a named 5 LDAP server and retrieves the response. The LDAP response is transformed into an XML document which is returned as the response of the servlet.

Parser servlet 114 retrieves XML templates 120, fetches 10 XML files from the from servlets 122 and 130 (i.e. the XML content rendered by the servlets 122 and 130), places the XML files in appropriate locations in the XML template, and applies XSL transform files 116 to the parsed XML template to generate HTML formatted 15 files. Parser servlet 114 provides a web interface to transforming an XML document using an XSL-T processor. Parser servlet 114 takes as input a URL specifying a XML document either via a common file name extension or as part of the URL path or query string, and optionally 20 an XSL-T file name. If no XSL-T file is specified, the servlet will look for a reference to a file in the input XML document. Using a freely available Java XML parser, the input XML document is parsed into a DOM representation and the XSL-T transform is then applied. 25 The output of the transform is returned as the response of the servlet.

Figure 4 is a flow chart showing steps involved in providing web page information to a browser, according 30 to a preferred embodiment of the invention. The structure shown in Figure 1 is preferably used to provide the functionality shown in Figure 4, and thus

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reference will be made to the structural elements shown in Figure 1. In step 200, browser 110 requests a web page using an address for an XML template. This request is normally itself in response to a mouse click 5 by a user for a particular web page of the project workspace. The XML address is preferably a URL address to an XML template 120 stored on web server 128. In step 202 the XML template corresponding to the URL address is transferred to the parser servlet 114. In 10 step 204, parser servlet 114 resolves the pointers to various URLs that contain content for the requested web page. These URLs are normally addresses to HTML files in the case of most content used in the project workspace. The required content for the web page could 15 also be from other sources, however. For example, LDAP content may be needed for the "people" or "contact" type web pages in the project workspace. In the case of HTML content, the parser servlet requests the HTML files from HTML to XML servlet 122. In the case of 20 LDAP content, servlet 114 makes the request to LDAP to XML servlet 130.

In step 206, HTML to XML servlet 122 retrieves the HTML file (or files), converts the HTML content into XML 25 format and sends the XML formatted content to parser servlet. In step 208 the LDAP to XML servlet 130 retrieves the LDAP content, converts it to XML format, and sends the XML formatted content to parser servlet 114.

30

In step 210 parser servlet 114 places the XML file(s) from servlets 122 and 130 in appropriate locations in

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the XML template, thereby generating an XML file containing the require content. In step 212 parser servlet 114 applies XSL-T transform file (shown in Figure 1 as XSL-T style sheet 116) to the XML file, 5 thereby generating an HTML formatted file.

In step 214 the HTML formatted file generated in step 212 is returned to browser 110 through server application 112. In step 216, browser 110 fetches 10 basic formatting information (such as color) from HTML style sheet 118 in CSS format. Finally, in step 218, browser 110 displays the web page as the HTML formatted file in accordance with style sheet 118.

15 Advantageously, the XSL-T transform file defines much of the format, structuring, layout, banners, headings, icons (such as the edit icon, describe below), and look and feel of the web page (other than the colors and fonts, which are normally defined by the HTML style 20 sheet in CSS format). Using the XSL-T transform in this way allows for uniformity in these attributes (format, structuring, look and feel, etc) across all the web pages in the project workspace; it also becomes quite easy to make uniform changes to all the web 25 pages. A separate XSL-T transform file can be used for each type of web page. However, according to a preferred embodiment, a single XSL-T transform file is used to define all of the web pages in the project workspace.

30

Figure 2 shows structure for publishing from different interfaces to the web server, according to a preferred

embodiment of the invention. The types of interfaces shown for browser 110 are publishing from within Netscape Composer 152, bespoke form interface 154, and Netscape Java Client interface 150.

5

Netscape Composer 152, available from Netscape is the preferred interface method for editing HTML content for sections of web pages in the project workspace. The user can use Netscape Composer as part of the browser 10 software on the client's computer to edit content on a web page and then use an "HTTP put" command to store the edited content on the web server.

Web server 128, shown by the dashed line. The web 15 server 128 includes (in addition to what is shown in Figure 1), a publisher plug-in 144, and file system 142 and a publisher servlet 156. Server application 112 includes a publisher module to save the edited content to the file system 142. Preferably, a commercially 20 available module is used, such as the Netscape Publisher plug-in 144. Publisher servlet 156 that allows for the improved control over file management access by the users.

25 According to the invention, user is able to edit and then publish a single section or portion of a web page. This feature allows for much simplified management of the project workspace web pages. By dividing the web page in to multiple sections, the layout can be made 30 more user friendly. In the example shown in Figure 8, web page 300 is divided into multiple sections 306, 308, and 304. Editing of the web page is much simpler

for a single section of the web page, than it would be for editing the entire web page. Thus splitting the web page into multiple sections allows for a user friendly presentation, and providing editing capability for each section separately allows for user friendly content maintenance. It has been found that project team members can easily maintain their own project web pages using these editing features.

The edit and republish task of a section of a web page consists of retrieving a text version of the section, editing the text using a text editor, and then saving or writing the edited text on the web server at the appropriate location. These tasks are preferably and simply accomplished using the structure shown in the preferred embodiment of Figures 1 and 2, and in the discussion of the other figures herein, the reference numbers used refer to the appropriate structures shown in Figures 1 and 2.

20 The Netcape Java client interface 150 can be used to provide the users with many other features, including file management functionality the content stored on file system 142. However, it has been found that for file management a forms-based system is preferred due to the increased simplicity and ease of use for the project team members.

Thus, according to a preferred embodiment, HTML forms interface 154 is used for file management by the users. Publisher servlet 156 provides an HTML forms-based interface to the functionality of the Netscape

Publisher plug-in 144. Servlet 156 uses the Netscape Publisher client library written in Java to provide access to all the Netscape server publisher plug-in functionality. This includes the ability to list and 5 browse the Web directory hierarchy, upload, move, rename and delete files, turn file locking on and off, enable or disable versioning of a file and view file and folder attributes including version information. The servlet provides two interfaces, referred to as 10 simple and complete, where the simple interface provides a subset of the functionality provided by the complete interface.

Figure 5 is a flow chart showing steps involved in 15 editing and publishing content on a project workspace, according to a preferred embodiment. In step 250 the user views a web page from the project workspace as in described in connection with Figure 4. In step 252 the user identifies one particular section of the web page 20 he wishes to edit. For example, the user may wish to edit and add content to the "News" section 306 of home page 300 of the workspace for a project he is working on. Preferably, the user selects section 306 by clicking a special edit icon 312 shown on header 310. 25 Edit icon 312 is a URL address pointer to the HTML file 124 that contains the content for section 306. In the example shown in Figure 8, the edit icon is in the form of a yellow wooden pencil, signifying to the user to capability to easily erase and add new content. In 30 step 254, browser retrieves the text version of the section to be edited. As will be described in greater detail, the browser does this by issuing a request to

the web server. In step 256 the user edits the text version of the section of the web page. The user preferably uses a commercial application for this, preferably Netscape Composer 152 running on browser 110. When the user has completed editing the section, the new version of the text is saved at an appropriate location on the web server, step 258.

Figure 6 is a flow chart showing how a portion of a web page is retrieved for editing in step 254 of Figure 5, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. In step 230, browser 110 issues a request to web server 128 for part of a web page. The request is done using the URL pointer to the XML template 120 for the web page containing the section to be edited. As mentioned the URL pointer is associated with an edit icon (e.g. icon 312 on Figure 8). In step 232 the server application 112 simply fetches the HTML file 124 directly using the URL pointer. Since the file 124 is already in HTML format, and since the content of only one section is provided, the servlets 114 and 122 are not used. The server then passes the HTML file to browser 110 for viewing and editing.

Figure 7 is a flow chart showing how a portion of a web page is saved, or published, in step 258 of Figure 5, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. In step 240, browser 110 sends the edited HTML file to web server 128 using an "HTTP Put" command using the URL address associated with the section of the web page being edited. In step 242, web server 128 then used Netscape Publisher plug-in 144 to save the edited HTML

file to file system 142. As shown in Figure 2, file is saved to file system 142 preferably via an RCS interface, and uses the URL address identified by browser 110. Advantageously, using the same URL for 5 retrieving the content to be edited and saving the edited content makes the editing and publishing features extremely simple and easy to use.

Figure 3 shows the structure for interfacing with a 10 central corporate LDAP directory server, according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. User authentication in the project workspace is preferably accomplished via a corporate LDAP directory server 140.

15 Each project has groups of individuals defined in the LDAP directory 140 and ACL (Access Control List) lists on the web server 128 for read and write access. When a user's computer 162 accesses the workspace for a project server application 112 authenticates the user 20 against the corresponding list in LDAP directory 114 and then uses the ACL to decide what access rights the user has. As shown in Figure 3, directory database 160 is accessible via LDAP directory server 140. Figure 3 also shows another user's computer 168 that can create 25 and edit mail groups via the LDAP directory server 140. Server 164 is which also can access LDAP server 140 could be, for example, another web server for a project workspace for a corporate research facility other than that served by web server 128.

30

Each project has a people web page as part of the project's project workspace. The membership listed on

this web page is preferably controlled via the LDAP services.

Each LDAP group preferably has an owner who is

5 designated as the project manager. The project manager, via an HTML forms interface controls the membership of the groups and thereby controls the access to the particular project's web pages. Thus, using the LDAP authentication system and the preferred

10 structure, the project teams, though the project manager, can manage their own access rights. This contributes to the ease of maintenance of the preferred project workspace system.

15 The above-described embodiments are illustrative of the invention only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

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Claims

We claim:

5 1. A method of publishing information on a network-based computer system comprising the steps of:

10 displaying a web page on a client computer, the web page comprising a plurality of sections each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML file stored on a network server under a file address;

15 editing the content of one of the sections of the web page under direction of a user on the client computer; and

20 transmitting the edited section of the web page to the network server along with the file address corresponding to the HTML file from which said one of the sections derived its content, such that the edited section will be saved on the network server.

25 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying a web page containing the edited section on a second client computer to a second user.

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3. The method of claim 1 wherein said file address under which the HTML files is stored is a URL address.

5 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of requesting the web page comprising a plurality of sections using a URL address for an XML template associated with the web page.

10 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the editing step comprises the steps of:

identifying the section of the web page to be edited under direction of the user;

15 retrieving a copy of the HTML file from which the section to be edited derived its content; and

20 altering the content of the HTML file under direction of the user thereby generating an edited HTML file, and wherein the edited HTML file is saved using the file address corresponding to the HTML file from which the section to be edited derived its content.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of displaying comprises:

25 receiving from a client computer an address for an XML template corresponding to the web page to be displayed;

resolving from the XML template address for each of the plurality of HTML files that contain content for the sections of the web page;

5 converting each of the plurality HTML files into an XML file, thereby generating a plurality of XML files;

10 combining the plurality of XML files and generating therefrom an HTML output file representing the web page; and

15 transmitting the HTML output file to a browser application on the client computer.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of combining comprises:

15 placing each of the plurality of XML files in an appropriate location on the XML template thereby generating an XML output file; and

18 applying an XSL transform file to the XML output file to generate the HTML output file.

20

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the XSL transform file is an XSL style sheet that defines the format, look & feel, and structuring of the web page.

25 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the web page further comprises a section containing content derived from an LDAP file.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said step of displaying comprises:

5 receiving from a client computer an address for an XML template corresponding to the web page to be displayed;

resolving from the XML template an address for the LDAP files that contain content for the section of the web page;

10 converting the LDAP file into an XML file;

combining the XML file with other XML files and generating therefrom an HTML output file representing the web page; and

15 transmitting the HTML output file to a browser application on the client computer.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of controlling the access to the network-based computer system using an external server to define and 20 limit the rights of authors and readers within the network.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the external server is an LDAP directory server.

25

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the content of the sections of the web page is of a type which

includes the following data types: text, tables, video, graphics, and sound.

14. A method of publishing information on a
5 network-based computer system comprising the steps of:

transmitting an HTML output file to a browser
on a client computer, the HTML output file
defining a web page comprising a plurality of
sections each of the sections containing content
10 derived from an HTML source file stored on a
network server under a file address;

receiving an edited HTML file and an address
from the client computer, the address
corresponding to one of the HTML source files; and

15 saving the edited HTML file on the file
system using said corresponding address.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the
steps of:

20 converting each of the HTML source files into
an XML file, thereby generating a plurality of XML
files; and

25 combining the plurality of XML files and
generating therefrom an HTML output file
representing the web page having a plurality of
sections, each of the sections deriving content
from one of said HTML source files.

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16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

5 receiving from a client computer an address for an XML template corresponding to the web page; and

resolving from the XML template address for each of the HTML source files that contain content for the sections of the web page;

10 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of combining comprises:

placing each of the plurality of XML files in an appropriate location on the XML template thereby generating an XML output file; and

15 applying an XSL transform file to the XML output file to generate the HTML output file.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the XSL transform file is an XSL style sheet and together with the XML template are used to define the format, look & feel, and structuring of the web page.

25 19. The method of claim 14 wherein the web page further comprises a section containing content derived from an LDAP file.

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20. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of transmitting a web page containing the edited section to a second client computer under the direction of a second user.

5

21. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of controlling the access to the network-based computer system using an LDAP directory server to define and limit the rights of authors and readers 10 within the network.

22. The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

15 receiving the HTML output file on an client computer;

displaying the web page based on the HTML output file on the client computer;

20 editing the content of one of the sections of the web page under direction of a user on the client computer thereby generating the edited HTML file; and

transmitting from the client computer the edited HTML file and the address corresponding to one of the HTML source files.

25

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the editing step comprises the steps of:

identifying the section of the web page to be edited under direction of the user;

retrieving a copy of the HTML file from which the section to be edited derived its content; and

24. A system for publishing information on a network-based computer system comprising:

15 a web server configured to transmit an HTML output file to a browser on a client computer, the HTML output file defining a web page comprising a plurality of sections each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML source file stored on the web server under a file address, the web server also configured to receive an edited HTML file and an address from the client computer, the address corresponding to one of the HTML source files; and to save the edited HTML file on the file system using said corresponding address.

20

25

25. The system claim 24 further comprising:

a software module adapted to convert each of the HTML source files into an XML file, thereby generating a plurality of XML files; and

5 a software module adapted to combine the plurality of XML files and generate therefrom an HTML output file representing the web page having a plurality of sections, each of the sections deriving content from one of said HTML source files.

10

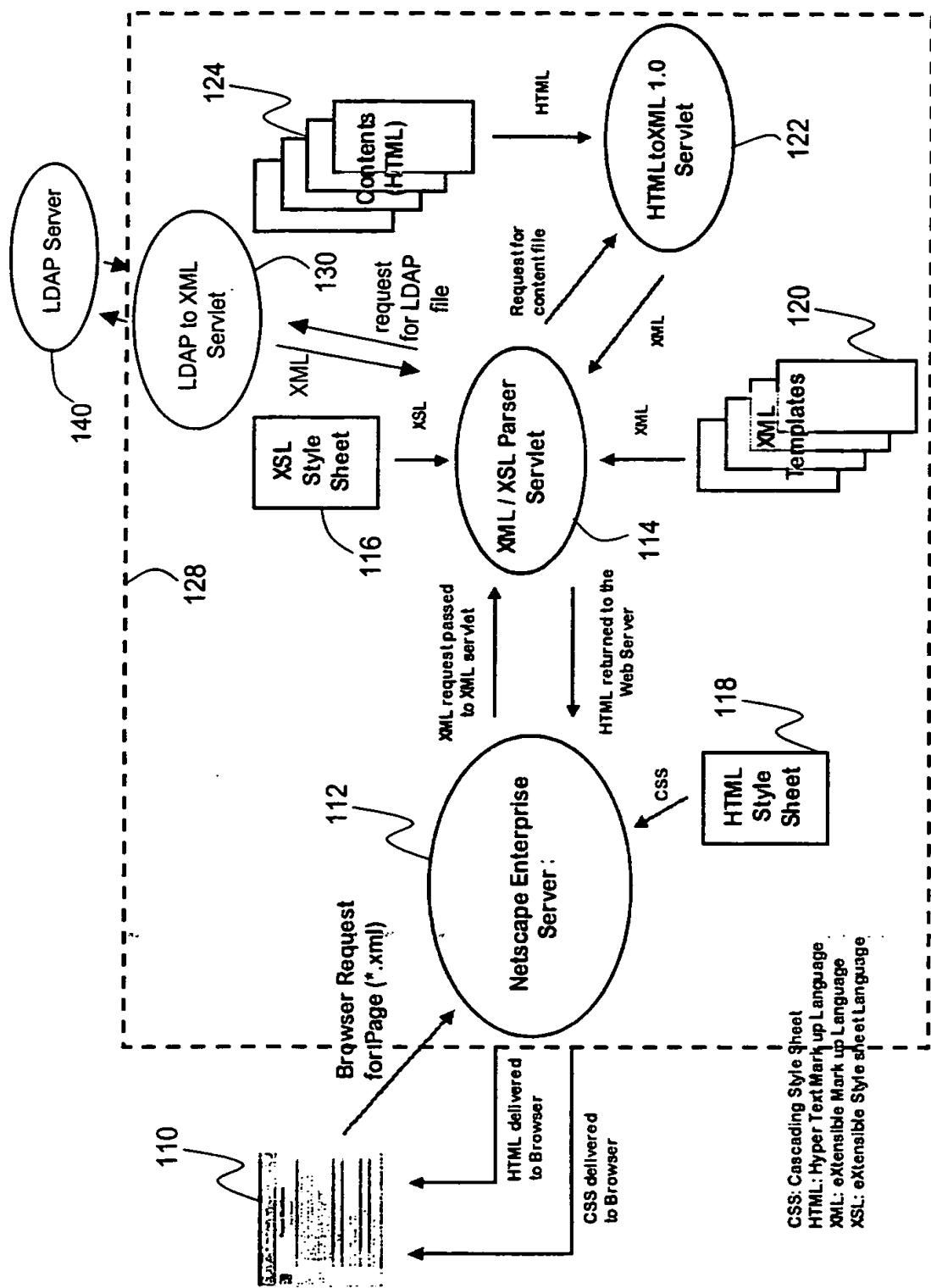
26. The system of claim 25 further comprising a software module configured to receive from a client computer an address for an XML template corresponding to the web page, and resolve from the XML template address for each of the HTML source files that contain content for the sections of the web page;

20 27. The system of claim 26 wherein the software module adapted to combine is also adapted to place each of the plurality of XML files in an appropriate location on the XML template thereby generating an XML output file, and to apply an XSL transform file to the XML output file to generate the HTML output file.

25 28. A system for publishing information on a network-based computer system comprising a client computer configured to display to a user a web page, the web page comprising a plurality of sections each of the sections containing content derived from an HTML

file stored on a network server under a file address, to editing the content of one of the sections of the web page under direction of the user on the client computer, and to transmit the edited section of the web 5 page to the network server so as to be saved on the server using the file address corresponding to the HTML file from which said one of the sections derived its content.

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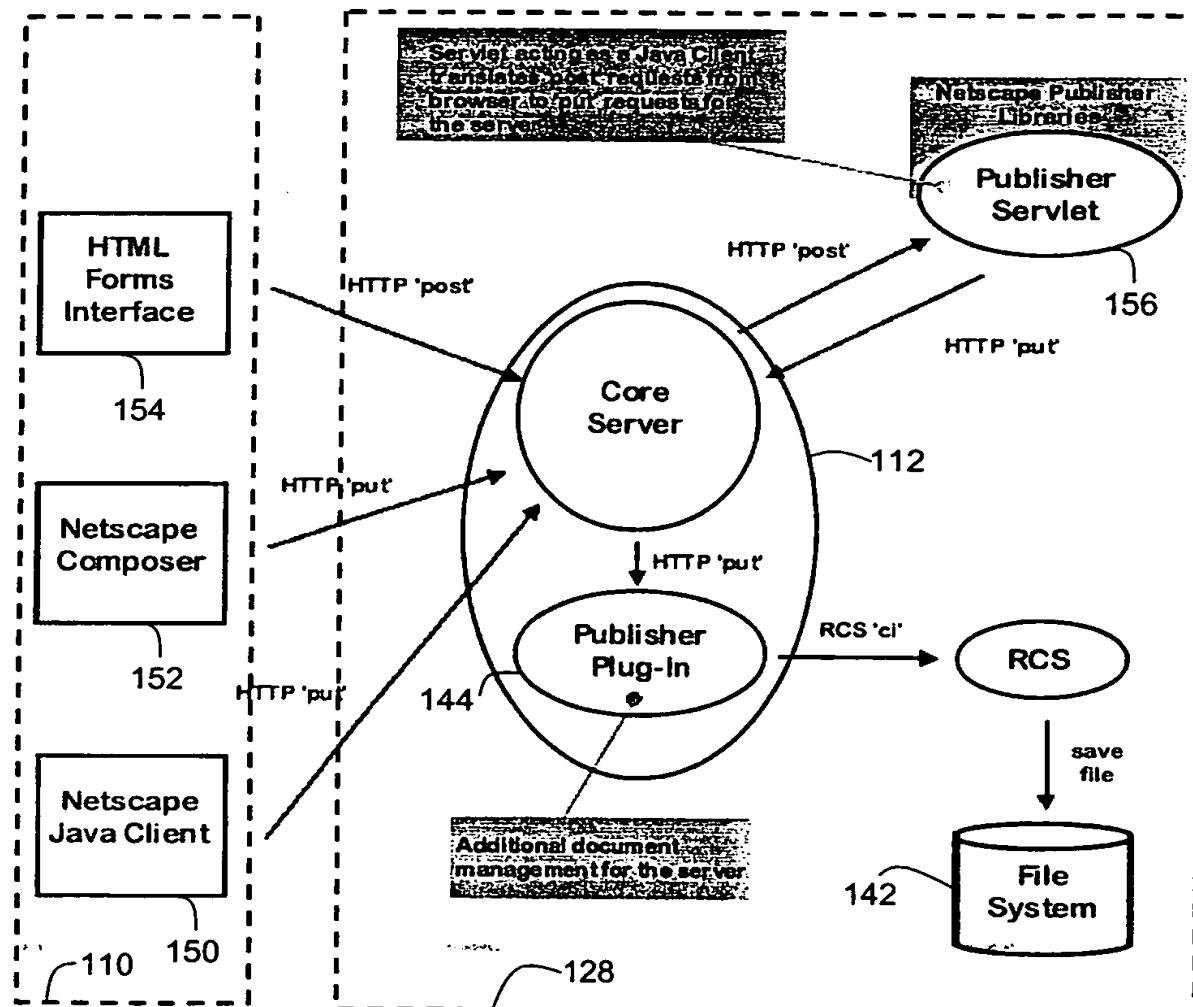
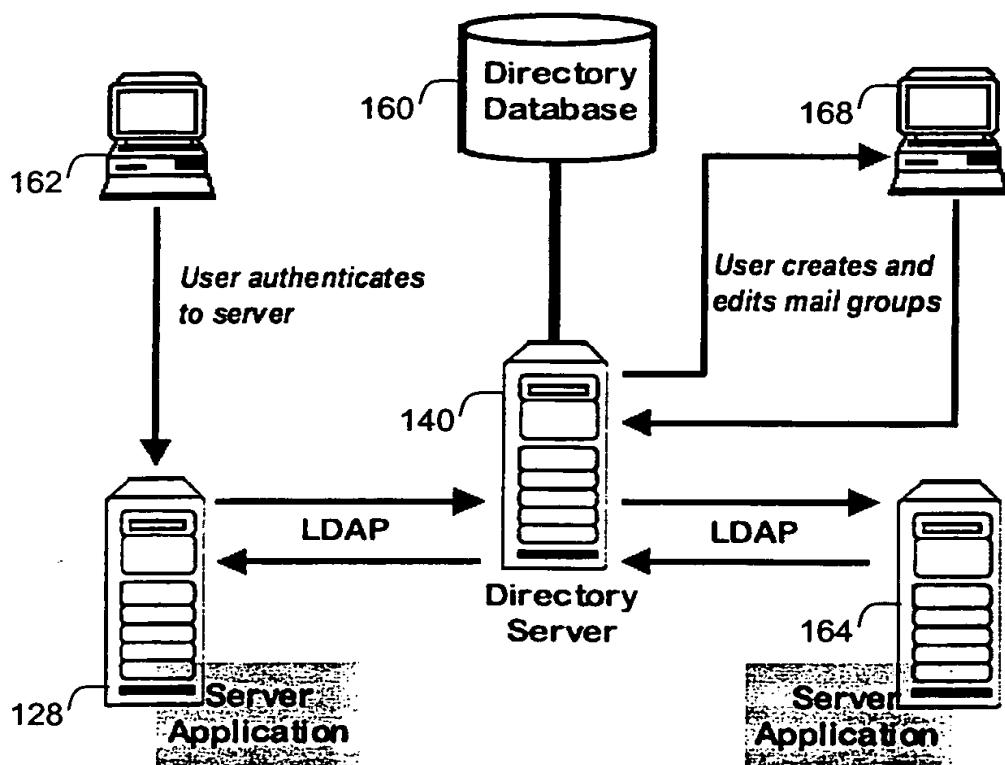


Fig. 2

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LDAP Client and Server Interaction



Servers obtain configuration and authentication information from directory server.

Fig. 3

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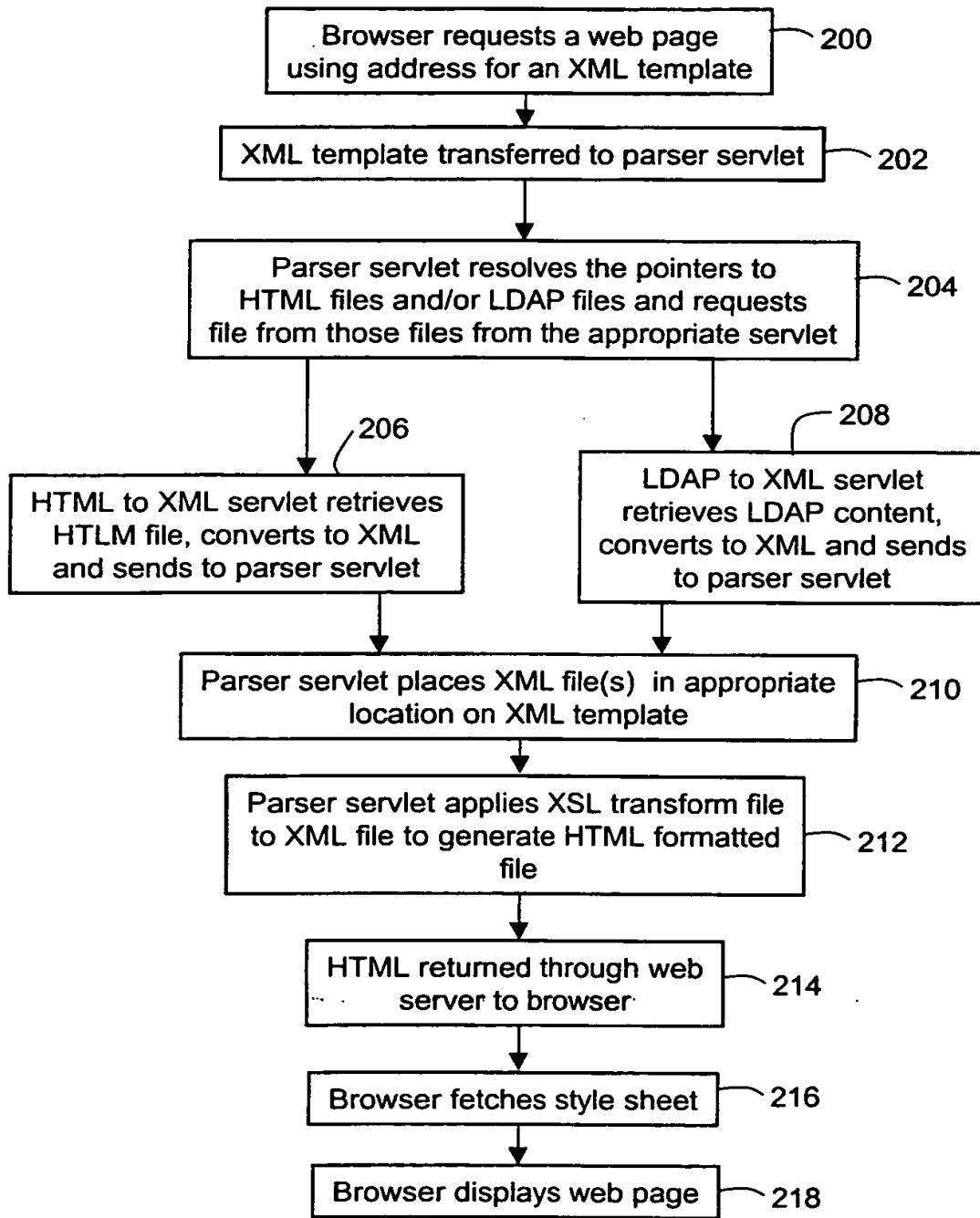


Fig. 4

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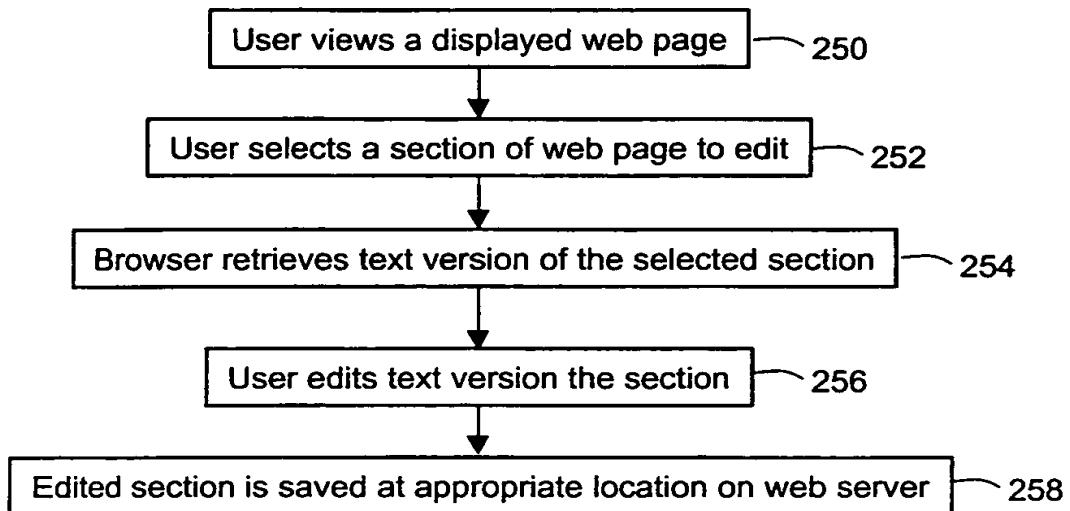


Fig. 5

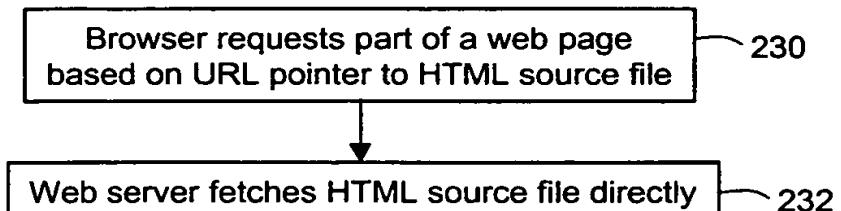


Fig. 6

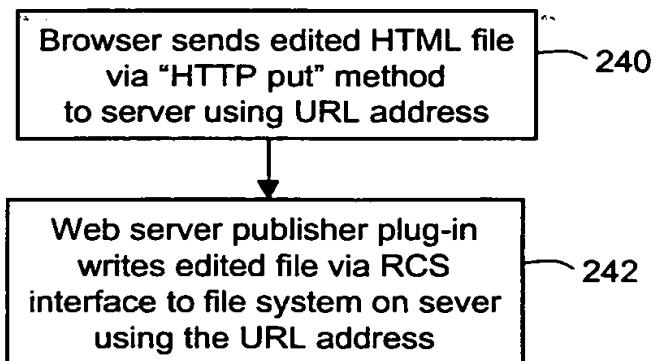


Fig. 7

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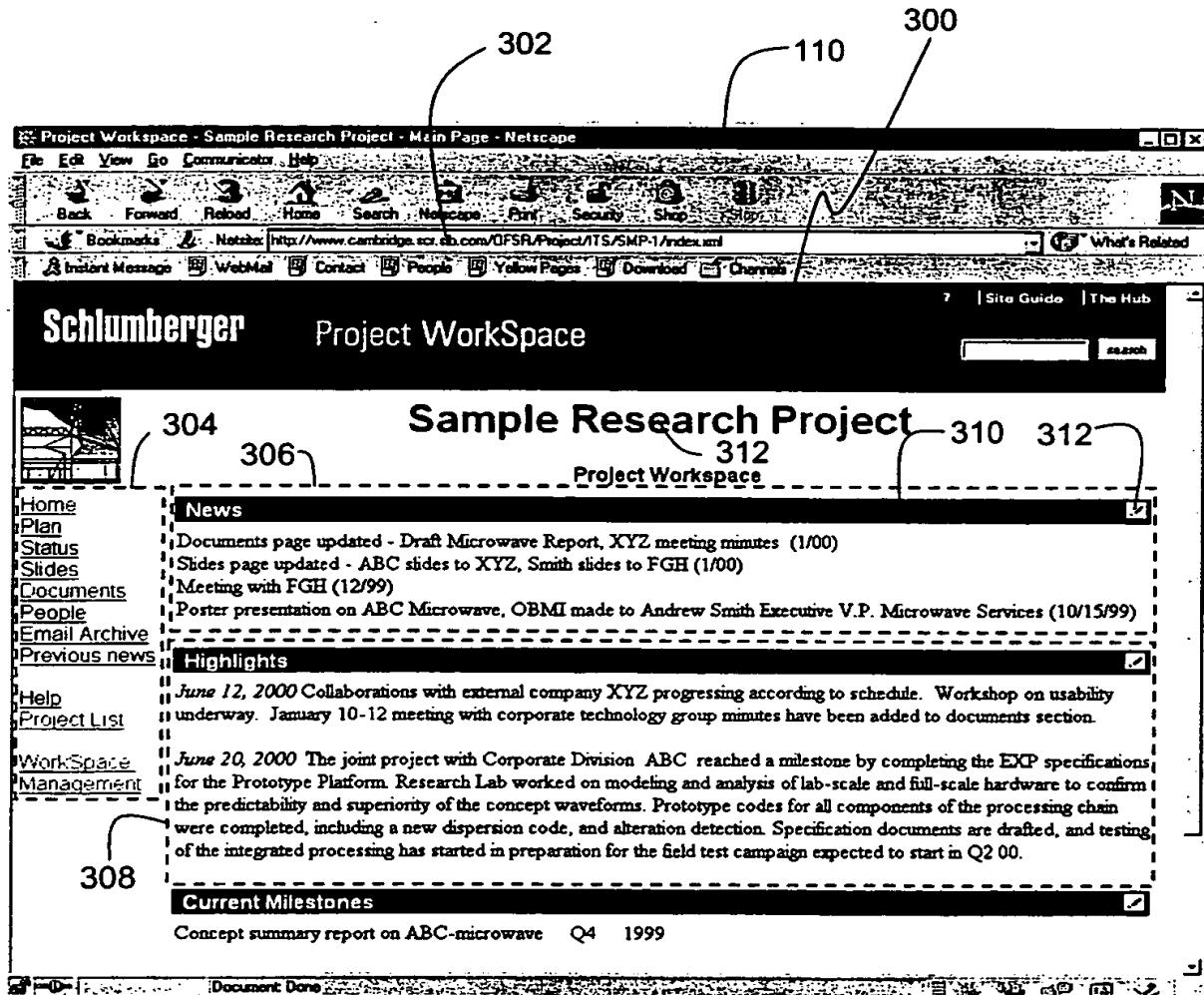


Fig. 8

101030956

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
1 February 2001 (01.02.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/08044 A3(51) International Patent Classification⁷: G06F 17/60

[GB/GB]; 27 Church Street, Guilden Morden, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 0JD (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/02844

(74) Agent: WANG, William, L.; Schlumberger Cambridge Research Limited, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0EL (GB).

(22) International Filing Date: 27 July 2000 (27.07.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(81) Designated States (national): AE. AG. AL. AM. AT. AU. AZ. BA. BB. BG. BR. BY. BZ. CA. CH. CN. CR. CU. CZ. DE. DK. DM. DZ. EE. ES. FI. GB. GD. GE. GH. GM. HR. HU. ID. IL. IN. IS. JP. KE. KG. KP. KR. KZ. LC. LK. LR. LS. LT. LU. LV. MA. MD. MG. MK. MN. MW. MX. MZ. NO. NZ. PL. PT. RO. RU. SD. SE. SG. SI. SK. SL. TJ. TM. TR. TT. TZ. UA. UG. US. UZ. VN. YU. ZA. ZW.

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

9917554.9 27 July 1999 (27.07.1999) GB

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW). Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 13 June 2002

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

A3

WO 01/08044

(54) Title: PUBLISHING SYSTEM FOR INTRANET

(57) Abstract: A method and system for publishing information on a network-based computer system is disclosed. The disclosed method and system advantageously facilitates the sharing of project-related information in an efficient and easy-to-use manner. The disclosed method and system includes a web server that transmits an HTML web page to a browser on a client computer. The web page includes multiple sections containing content derived from HTML source files stored on the server under URL address. The client computer displays the web page to a user, allows for editing of the content of the sections of the web page by the user, and transmits the edited section of the web page to the network server. The web server receives the edited HTML content, and stores it using the address corresponding to the HTML source file.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02844

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/60

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	WO 98 18087 A (BENYON PAUL ROBERT ; BRITISH TELECOMM (GB)) 30 April 1998 (1998-04-30) abstract page 11, line 14 -page 13, line 1 page 4, line 19 -page 7, line 8 ---	1-28
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X	US 5 870 552 A (WILLIAMS V GEORGE W ET AL) 9 February 1999 (1999-02-09) abstract column 3, line 41 -column 4, line 44 ---	1,14,24, 28 -/-

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 March 2002

10/04/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02844

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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...Information on patent family members

International Application No

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